WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Meetings of Inter-State Council

*444. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of meeting Inter-State Council held during the last year;

(b) the subjects which were discussed and the recommendations made;

(c) the details of recommendations which are yet to be implemented;

(d) if so, by when those recommendations will be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The seventh meeting of the Inter-State Council was held on the 16th November, 2001 in New Delhi.

(b) In this meeting, 59 recommendations contained in the report of Sarkaria Commission on various subjects *viz*, Legislative Relations, Role of Governor, All India Services, Inter-Governmental Council, Mines and Minerals, Mass Media etc. were considered. Some of the important recommendations made by the Council include the following:—

(i) All residuary powers of legislation including those of taxation matters should be transferred from the Union List to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

(ii) For legislation in respect of subjects in the Concurrent List, there should be active consultation with the State Governments except in emergent cases.

(iii) A comprehensive Central legislation should be brought up in regard to imposition of taxes by the local bodies on the properties of the Union Government, which are of industrial and commercial nature.

(iv) Consultation with the State Chief Ministers in the selection of a person to be appointed as Governor should be made obligatory through a Constitutional amendment.

(c) to (e) Of the 59 recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission considered in the meeting held on the 16th of November, 2001, the Inter-State

Council recommended acceptance of 40 recommendations and the remaining 19 were recommended for rejection. The recommendations of the Inter-State Council have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries and State Governments in January, 2002 for implementation. The major recommendations regarding legislative relations, role of Governors etc. would, if accepted by the Government, require amendments to the Constitution. Many of the aspects covered by the above recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission/Inter-State Council have also been examined by the National Commission set up to Review the Working of Constitution and they have given their recommendations. The Government will need to take a comprehensive view on these issues after examining the recommendations of the Inter-State Council as well as the Constitution Review Commission. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate a definite time-frame by which these recommendations of the Inter-State Council will be implemented.

Unemployed persons in rural areas

†*445. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the unemployed persons in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, what was their number at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the time-frame fixed by Government to provide job to each of them?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) The estimates of employment and unemployment are worked out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) based on their quinquennial surveys. As per the latest 55th (1999-2000) round of survey, the number of unemployed as Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) during 1999-2000 has been measured at 8.97 million. The number of unemployed persons in rural areas has been estimated at 4.43 million in 1999-2000.

The approach to the Tenth Five Year Plan recognizes the importance of providing gainful employment to the additions to the labour force and the same is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are most likely to create high quality employment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.